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## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

317 West Main Street, Boise, Idaho 83735-0510

### TRANSMITTAL # 10

### MEMORANDUM

October 5, 2011

**TO:** Workforce Development Council

**FROM:** Jay Larsen

**SUBJECT:** Technology Job Creation Pilot

**REQUESTED:** Provide Council Support for Idaho's Grant Proposal

#### BACKGROUND:

The U.S. Department of Labor is offering a grant up to \$5 million grant (over four years) to train dislocated or prolonged unemployed workers to be competitive in jobs with industries that use H1B visas to hire foreign skilled labor. The grant application is due November 17, 2011.

The Idaho Technology Council, Idaho Department of Labor, several leading technology companies in Boise and Boise State University are partnering to develop an "Idaho Technology Job Creation" pilot and apply for this grant. The \$5 million grant would be used to develop customized curriculum for a career lattice to link dislocated workers with specific engineering degrees to short-term curriculum to train for computer programming, network systems and computer systems analysis and computer software engineering, which are the top jobs Idaho technical companies use the H1B program to hire foreign workers.

The department will dedicate \$5 million in Workforce Development Training Fund (WDTF) resources to pay for the training costs for eligible companies' new hires to participate in the customized training. In addition, Workforce Investment Act (WIA) resources would be used to help pay for this training on an individual participant basis as appropriate. The HIRE ONE tax credit would also be an incentive for companies to participate.

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Council provide a letter of support for inclusion in the proposal's application to the U.S. Department of Labor.

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